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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A2g [redacted]

COUNTRY Palestine

SUBJECT Visit of Archbishop Gregory of Leningrad to Palestine

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SUPPLEMENT 25X1A2g [redacted]

1. Metropolitan Gregory of Leningrad arrived in Palestine on 21 November 1946 and it was generally assumed that the visit was in connection with the question of Russian properties in Palestine. The real purpose of the visit appears, however, to have been discussions revolving around the Pan-Orthodox Congress, which is expected to be held in 1947, and is to be followed by a Council representing most branches of both the Protestant and Orthodox churches and which is expected to discuss the question of the unity of the two churches.

2. At previous meetings of both the Council and the Congress, the Soviet Church has not been represented, but it appears that it will be represented in 1947. It is believed that there will be a representative from each of the following places: U.S.A., Western Europe, Cyprus, Greece, Russia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Albania, Istanbul, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Alexandria.

3. The Moscow Church is said to be making every effort to ensure that, if possible, at this Congress there will be a pro-Soviet bloc large enough to secure a majority whenever questions of importance to Russia come up for discussion. In addition, it is reported that it is intended to open an "administrative office" in each place represented at the Congress, the staff of which will be Russian. The support of Bulgaria, Rumania, Albania and Yugoslavia is assured and the Greek Orthodox Bishop of Mount Lebanon, Elia Karam, intimated that Antioch has now agreed to join. It is difficult to forecast the attitude which will be adopted by Chrisstoforos, the Patriarch of Alexandria, but local Greek circles are expecting him to refuse.

4. The Metropolitan of Leningrad asked the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem, Timotheus, if he could return to Moscow with an assurance that Jerusalem could be counted among their supporters. Patriarch Timotheus is reported to have replied, "The Patriarchate of Jerusalem has hitherto been represented at the Congress by Bishop Germanos of London, who is also the representative of the Patriarch of Constantinople in England and we will abide by whatever he may decide". This was tantamount to a refusal and it is stated that the visiting Metropolitan was keenly disappointed and left Palestine regarding his visit as a failure.

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